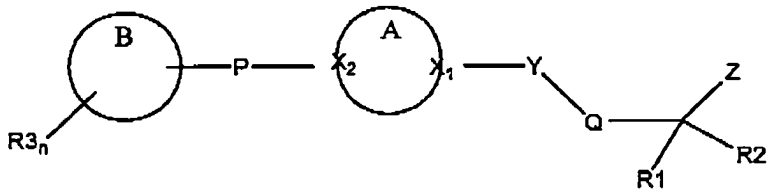
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in this application:

1. (Previously presented) A compound of the formula I



I

wherein ring B represents a pyridyl ring;

each R3 is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, NO_2, COOR wherein R is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, CN, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkyl, -S-Cl_6 alkyl, -SO-C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and up to C_{10} aryloxy, n is 1, 2, or 3;

P is –(CH_2)n- wherein n = 0, 1, 2, or P is an alkene or alkyne chain of up to six carbon atoms;

Ring A represents a piperazinyl ring optionally mono- or di- substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy may independently be further substituted with a halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or an oxo group;

X_1 and X_2 are N;

Y is selected from –SO_2- and –CO-;

Z is –CONHOH, Y is –CO- and Q is selected from –C(R6)(R7)-, -C(R6)(R7)-CH_2-, -N(R6)-, and –N(R6)-CH_2- wherein R6 is as defined above, and solely in relation to Q as here defined, R6 may also represent up to C_{10} aryl and up to C_9 heteroaryl, and R7 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, or together with R6 forms a carbocyclic or heterocyclic spiro 5, 6 or 7 membered ring, the latter containing at least one heteroatom selected from N, O, and S;

Z is –CONHOH, Y is –SO_2- and Q is selected from –C(R6)(R7)-, and -C(R6)(R7)-CH_2-;

or Z is -N(OH)CHO and Q is selected from -CH(R6)-, -CH(R6)-CH_2-, and -N(R6)-CH_2-;

R1 is H, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

Z is selected from -COOH, -CONHOH, -N(OH)CHO and N(OH)COR wherein R is C_{1-6} alkyl, up to C_{10} aryl and up to C_9 aralkyl

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And R2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y-R9 wherein R9 is C_{1-6} alkyl, up to C_{10} aryl, up to C_{12} aralkyl or up to C_{12} heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, or (ii) Y-T-R9 wherein Y and R9 are as previously defined and T is oxygen or N-R8 wherein R8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, the heteroatom(s) being independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur; R9 and R8 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO_2, CN, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkyl, -S-C_{1-6} alkyl, -SO-C_{1-6} alkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

2. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

R3 is hydrogen, halogen, NO_2, CF_3, C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{1-4} alkoxy;

n is 1 or 2;

P is -(CH_2)n- wherein n is 0 or 1;

one or both of X2 and X1 = N;

Y is –SO_2- or –CO-;

Q is –CH(R6)-, -CH(R6)-CH_2-, -N(R6)-, and –N(R6)-CH_2- wherein R6 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; when Q = -N(R6)- or –N(R6)-CH_2- then Y may also be –CS-, also Q may be linked to R1 or R2 to form a 5-7 alkyl or heteroalkyl ring;

R1 = hydrogen, or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Z = -CONHOH- or –N(OH)CHO

and R2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y-R9 wherein R9 is C_{1-6} alkyl, up to C_{10} aryl, up to C_{12} aralkyl or up to C_{12} heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, or (ii) Y-T-R9 wherein Y and R9 are as stated in claim 1 and T is oxygen or N-R8 wherein R8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, the heteroatom(s) being independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur; R9 and R8 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO_2, CN, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkyl, -S-C_{1-6} alkyl, -SO-C_{1-6} alkyl, -SO_2-C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

3. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

R3 is hydrogen, chlorine, flourine, NO_2, CF_3, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy;

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ring B is phenyl, biphenyl, napthyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl and pyridazinyl;

P is a direct bond;

both X2 and X1 are N;

Y is $-SO_2-$;

Q is $-CH_2-$;

R2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y-R9 wherein Y is as stated in claim 1 and R9 is C_{1-6} alkyl or alkylamino, up to C_{10} aryl or arylamino, up to C_{12} aralkyl or aralkylamino, up to C_{12} heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, R9 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO_2, CN, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-S-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-SO-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-SO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl and C_{1-6} alkoxy;

R1 is hydrogen

Z is $-N(OH)CHO$;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

4. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

R3 is methoxy, fluorine or 4-fluoro;

ring A is unsubstituted;

R2 is optionally substituted 3-piperidinyl, 4-piperidinyl or N-substituted 4-piperidinyl, or wherein the substituents are as stated in claim 3;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein R2 is 3- or 4-piperidinyl, optionally N-substituted by Y-R9 wherein Y is as stated in claim 1 and R9 is C_{1-4} alkyl or alkylamino, C_6 aryl or arylamino, up to C_{10} aralkyl or aralkylamino or up to C_{10} heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, R9 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, CF_3, and C_{1-4} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

6. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an in vivo hydrolysable ester and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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7-13. (Cancelled).

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